

quadripustulatus (L.). The flea beetle *Aphthona euphorbiae* (Schr.) unexpectedly turned up in considerable numbers in oak trees. Amongst the planthoppers, *Forcipata forcipata* (Flor) and *Aphrophora salicina* (Goeze) raised the tone of the list a little, but the best species of the day was *Idiocerus vittifrons* Kursch. from *Acer campestre* L. the field maple.

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

***Ptinus subpilosus* Sturm (Coleoptera: Ptinidae) in Somerset.** — A single example of *Ptinus subpilosus* was found beneath loose webby bark on an old oak in Nettlecombe Park (ST 0537), near Williton in S. Somerset, 6.vi.1988. The species is not included in the county list (Wilson, 1958) and I am unaware of any subsequent report. It is an important addition to the saproxylic fauna of this very interesting site — which has been described elsewhere (Alexander, 1988). — K. N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2EF.

REFERENCES

- Alexander, K. N. A. 1988. A relict old forest beetle fauna from Nettlecombe Park in Somerset. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **1**: 128.
 Wilson, W. A. 1958. *Coleoptera of Somerset*. Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

***Ampedus elongantulus* (F.) (Coleoptera: Elateridae) new to Dorset.** — An elytron of *Ampedus elongantulus* was found in a spider's web beneath loose bark on an ancient oak in Sherborne Deer Park (ST 647167), 28.xii.1989. I understand from Howard Mendel (pers. comm.) that this is a new county record.

There has been a deer park at Sherborne since at least 1161 (Cantor, 1983), although the present site is immediately to the east of 'Old Park' and — judging from its structure — was probably developed from an area of ancient woodland. The tree composition is oak, ash, field maple and beech, with a few planted non-natives. All appear to be maidens, and there appears to be no evidence of the practice of pollarding which is so typical of medieval deer parks. There is also a good scatter of hawthorns and hazel.

The saproxylic beetle fauna so far recorded indicates that this site probably supports a very interesting relict old forest beetle fauna. In addition to *Ampedus elongantulus*, I have also found *Ctesias serra* (F.) and *Phymatodes testaceus* (L.), both 3.i.1988, *Pediacus dermestoides* (F.), *Eledona agricola* (Herbst), *Cerylon ferrugineum* Stephens, and *C. histeroides* (F.), all 1.v.1988, and *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.), *Bitoma crenata* (F.), and *Agrius sinuatus* (Olivier), 28.xii.1989. Many of these refer to larvae or pieces of adults, none of the visits having been during the summer.

Sherborne Deer Park is likely to be the 'Sherborne' locality referred to by Pearce (1926), who recorded *Trichonyx sulcicollis* (Reich.) and *Ischnomera caerulea* (L.) in the 1920s, and commented that it was proving to be a good centre.

My thanks to Howard Mendel for confirming my identification. — K. N. A. Alexander, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2EF.

REFERENCES

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 Pearce, E.J. 1926. A list of the Coleoptera of Dorset. *Proc. Dorset Nat. Hist. Ant. Field Club* **47**: 51–128.